

John Henry Eaton to Andrew Jackson, April 16, 1820, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOHN H. EATON TO JACKSON.

Washington, April 16, 1820.

D'r Genl. On Saturday I recvd yr. letter of the 29 ulto, and was pleased to find that the course pursued here in relation to yr. memorial was acceptable to yourself. That what was done is supported by prudence, and conduces more effectually to the main object designed by you to be effected, to wit the placing the matter understandingly and fully before the nation, I am more than ever convinced of. There have been many strictures and remarks made upon yr. memorial by different papers thro the states, and in none yet have I seen any other than the strongest expression in its favour; even two prominent papers one at N York and one at Baltimore heretofore decidedly on the opposite side have acknowledged themselves convinced by what you have said.

The copies sent to you and others have before this been recvd. you will find on perusal that the alterations made were inconsiderable: the one named to you before (*viz*) that the committee as you had understood had not drafted the report, was the most material; other changes were principally as to phraseology, such as *poison*, atrocious, falshoods and such like expressions which were exchanged for words of softer import. The suppression of the sentence in relation to "the *gentleman* who was the chief juggler behind the scenes" you say you somewhat regret. I think tho you ough[t] not to regret it; for independent of the harshness of the expression, yr. proof was hardly sufficient to support the remark I expect. Your expression used was that you had *understood* the report was not drafted by any one of C.1 I believe I know yr. authority for saying so; it

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1 Congress?

grew out of some statements made by Bronaugh, that the chairman had on getting a copy of the strictures at Gales office gone immediately to Mr. C.s2 house. Now no body acquainted with Laycock ever supposed that he could write it, yet this circumstance of yours would not sanction such a conclusion, and hence was it better to say nothing about it, but merely to leave it before the public on the *general literary reputation* of the man, There is no reasoning against the effect and influence of ones feelings; but these apart, I would say you have done enough, and more is not required. The subject can not be placed before the nation, stronger or better, no matter who shall take it in hand, and this being the case, I repeat, more is not required

2 Crawford's is no doubt meant.

You seem to be a little dissatisfied with Storrs report, and talk of replying. Believe me Sir you ought not. If you are to suffer your repose to be disturbed at the snarls of every man who availing himself of his little brief official authority shall speak of you, when pray will you get thro. By yrself and thro yr. friends yr case has been heard in Congress and is fairly before the Country; there trust it, nor believe that any little party yelpings will change its features

Yr memorial came before the public at the moment that Storrs from his select committee discovered his budget. His book3 fell still born from the press, and nothing here has been spoken or said about it in any way, by any body; and thus you percieve its feebleness, and how little it is to be regarded. I had a copy of it which it became necessary for me to examine, particularly, inasmuch as it had a bearing as 'twas said on my Semenole horse bill which I had reported to the Senate; before I could part with it, the report was published in the Intelligencer, where I concluded you would see it, or else the Copy I had would have been sent you, that you might have known all that was doing.

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3 l. e., report in pamphlet form.

I examined this book critically, and spoke of it freely as being destitute of accuracy. It was used against me in the Senate, with a view to prevent the troops being compensated for their horses, because they had recvd the 40 Cents improperly. I argued it in the way you have suggested; that the act of 1795 had nothing to do with it: that the act of 1818 had said that they should have the highest compensation given to militia during the war, and that whatever had been given to troops of the same description they were by right entitled to; and that hence all the emoluments secured under the act of 1816, rightfully belonged to them: and so the Senate by a great majority determined—cloths they were not entitled to; the only law upon this subject was in relation to Volunteers who had actually served during *one year*, then, and not else, were they to have an allowance for clothing: this law had expired, and was not revived by the act of 1818, at any rate they had not served *a year*. As regards what is said on the subject of “subsidizing” the Indians, by all men of intelligence this general remark is made, that they always have, and always must be employed, not from any advantage to be derived from them, but to make them nutral; if not employed, they will unite with the enemy; this Mr. S. seems not to have known. All that has been said in the Report about the Volunteers, the departure from orders and the constitution, those old topics are answered and fully met by what you have already said; to repeat my text then, more need not be said, and so I trust you will consider it.

You will see in the Washington Gazette of Saturday a pretty severe commentary on mr. Clays Florida resolutions they are from the pen perhaps of some one of the heads of Departments—you can guess as I do. Before the Caucus he was looked to as Vice President,³ but with all the manœuvring resorted to, not more than 30 members attended, and so the caucus failed in producing any result. I believe not more than one member from Tene. attended (Cocke)

3 In his *Memoirs* (V. 58) John Quincy Adams alludes to this matter, saying that Clay expected to be nominated for the vice-presidency and that Samuel Smith, of Maryland,

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who called the caucus, expected to go to the House of Representatives and become Speaker. Adams said (V. 60) that Clay's hopes were supported by Monroe's intimate friends, which he took to mean that peace had been made between Clay and the President. He also said that "not more than forty members" attended the caucus when it met. R. M. Johnson moved that it was inexpedient to make nominations, which motion passed without discussion, and the meeting adjourned.